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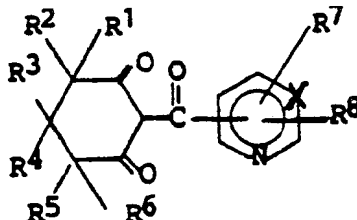
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54 **Herbicidal 2-pyridyl and 2-pyrimidine carbonyl 1,3-cyclohexanediones.**

57 **Herbicidal compounds having the formula**



wherein

**EP 0 316 491 A1**

X is =  $\overset{|}{\text{C}}\text{H}$  or =N- ;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkylene;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together are oxo;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

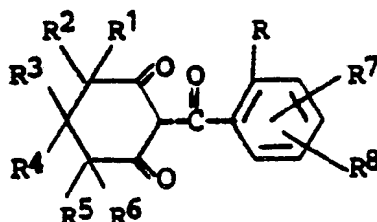
R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen; (3) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (4) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl; (9) R<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>n</sub>- wherein n is the integer 0, 1 or 2; and R<sup>b</sup> is (a) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (b) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano; (c) phenyl; or (d) benzyl; (10) -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (11) R<sup>e</sup>C(O)- wherein R<sup>e</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy; or (12) -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; and (13) -N(R<sup>c</sup>)C(O)R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined, and their salts.

## 1,3-CYCLOHEXANEDIONES

Background of the Invention

European Patent Application No. 135,191 relates to certain herbicidal compounds that can have the following structural formula

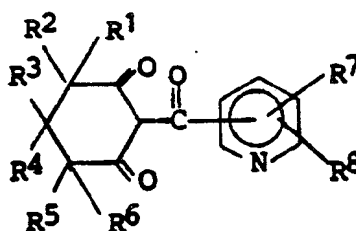


wherein R<sup>1</sup> through R<sup>8</sup> are substantially as defined below.

Description of the Invention

One embodiment of this invention is an herbicidal composition comprising an herbicidally active 2-(pyridinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione and an inert carrier therefor. More preferably, the pyridinecarbonyl group is a picolinoyl group. More preferably, the 5-position of the picolinoyl group is substituted with chlorine, bromine, iodine, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkylthio or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkylsulfonyl; most preferably chlorine, nitro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methylsulfonyl. The 4- or 6-positions of the 1,3-cyclohexanedione moiety can be substituted with one or two C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> groups, more preferably with two methyl groups, although such a substitution is not necessarily preferred. The 5-position of the 1,3-cyclohexanedione ring can be substituted with an oxo group when both the 4- and 6-positions are substituted with two C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups.

Also embodied within the scope of this invention are novel compounds having the following structural formula



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; phenyl; or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; or

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkylene;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; phenyl; or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that R<sup>1</sup> and

R<sup>3</sup> are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together are oxo;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; preferably methyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen, preferably chlorine, fluorine or bromine; (3) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>

alkyl, preferably methyl; (4) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, preferably methoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, more preferably trifluoromethyl; (9) R<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>n</sub>-wherein n is the integer 0, 1 or 2, preferably 2; and R<sup>b</sup> is

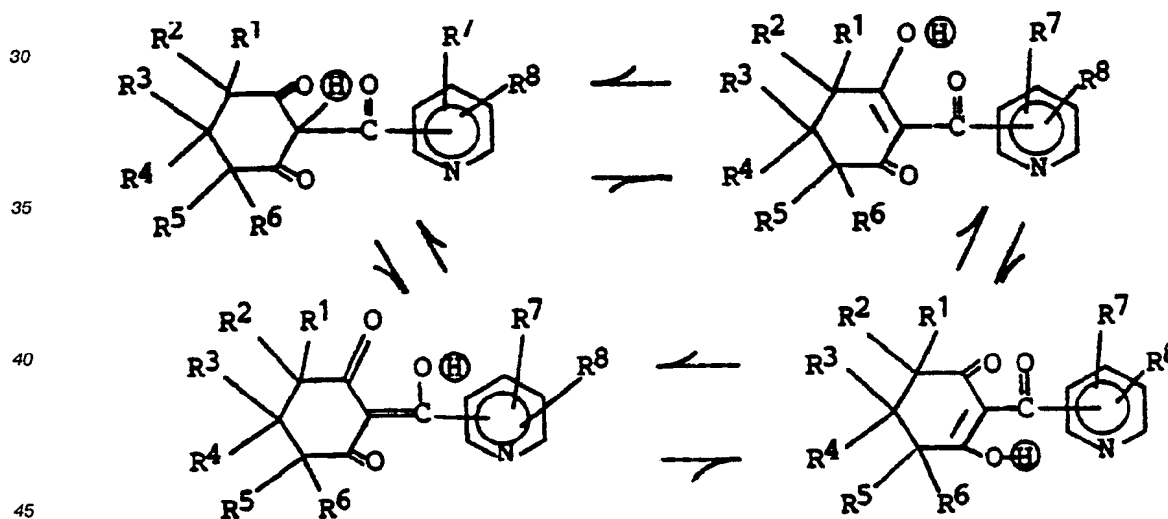
- (a) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl;  
 (b) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano, preferably chloromethyl, trifluoromethyl or cyanomethyl;  
 (c) phenyl; or  
 (d) benzyl;
- (10) -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;  
 (11) R<sup>e</sup>C(O)- wherein R<sup>e</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy;  
 (12) -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; or  
 (13) -N(R<sup>c</sup>)C(O)R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined.

Preferably the pyridinecarbonyl group is a picolinoyl group. Preferably R<sup>7</sup> is in the 3-position of the picolinoyl group. More preferably, R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen. Preferably R<sup>8</sup> is in the 5-position of the picolinoyl group. More preferably, R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or R<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>2</sub> wherein R<sup>b</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, preferably chloromethyl, difluoromethyl or trifluoromethyl.

The term "C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl" includes methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, isobutyl and t-butyl. The term "halogen" includes chlorine, bromine, iodine and fluorine. The terms "C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy" includes methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, isobutoxy and t-butoxy. The term "C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl" includes the alkyl groups defined above under C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl in which one or more hydrogens is replaced by chlorine, bromine, iodine or fluorine.

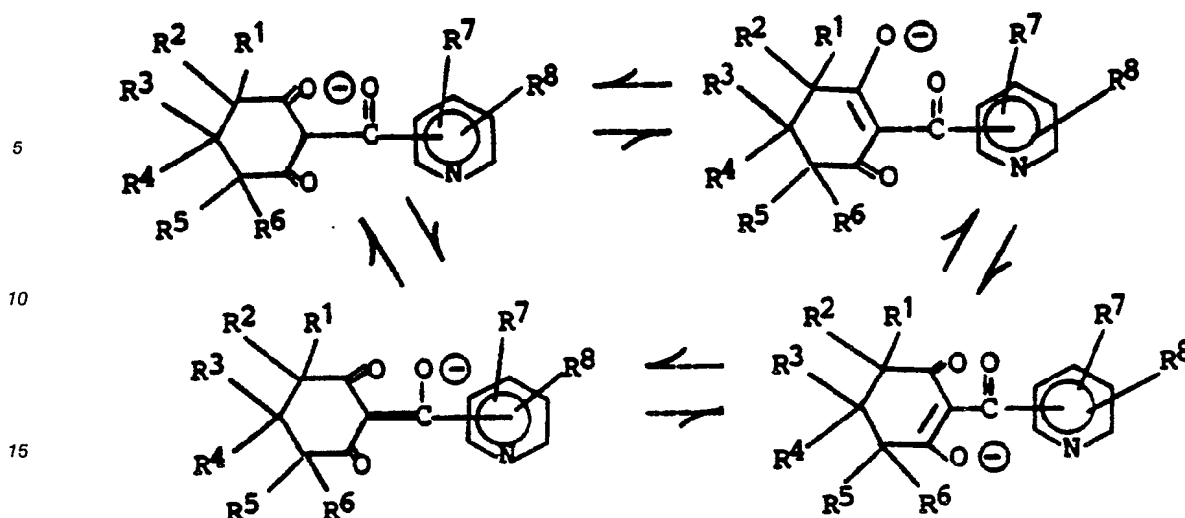
Salts of the above-described compounds (as defined hereinafter) are included within the scope of the instant invention.

The compounds of this invention can have the following four structural formulae because of tautomerism:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above.

The circled proton on each of the four tautomers is reasonably labile. These protons are acidic and can be removed by reaction with a base to form a salt, including internal salts, having an anion of the following four resonance forms:



20 wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above.

Examples of cations of these bases are inorganic cations such as alkali metals, e.g. lithium, sodium and potassium; the alkaline earth metals, e.g. calcium and magnesium or ammonium or organic cations such as substituted ammonium, sulfonium, sulfoxonium or phosphonium wherein the substituents are aliphatic or aromatic groups, or internal pyridinium.

25 Those skilled in the art will recognize in considering the salts of this invention that varying degrees of association between the anion and cation will exist depending upon the nature of the cation. In some instances with a suitable cation, such as copper, the salt can exist in a chelated form.

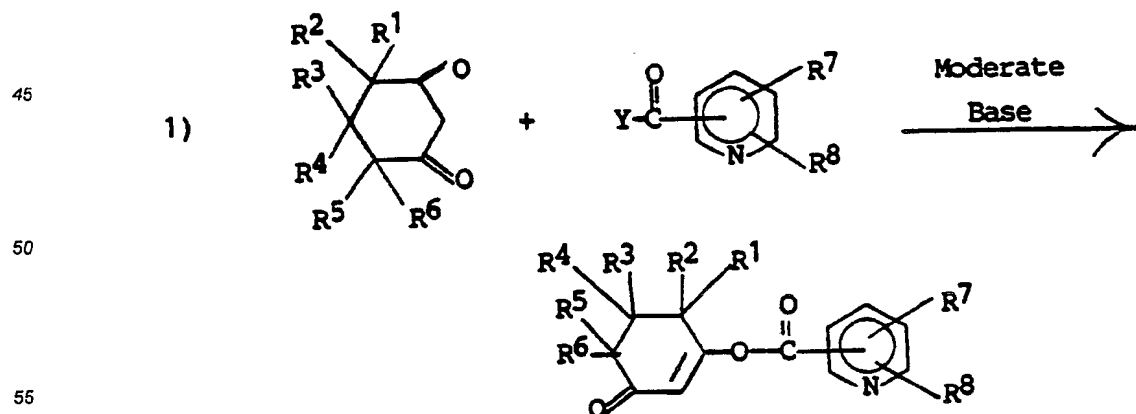
The compounds of this invention and their salts are active herbicides of a general type. That is, they are herbicidally effective against a wide range of plant species. The method of controlling undesirable vegetation of the present invention comprises applying an herbicidally effective amount of the above-described compounds or their salts to the area where control is desired.

The compounds of the present invention can be prepared by the following two-step general method.

The process proceeds via the production of an enol ester intermediate as shown in reaction (1). The final product is obtained by rearrangement of the enol ester as shown in reaction (2).

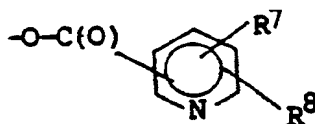
35 The process is conducted in the presence of a catalytic amount of a source of cyanide anion and/or hydrogen cyanide, together with a molar excess, with respect to the enol ester, of a moderate base.

The two reactions may be conducted as separate steps by isolation and recovery of the enol ester using conventional techniques prior to conducting step (2), or by addition of a cyanide source to the reaction medium after the formation of the enol ester, or in one step by inclusion of the cyanide source at the start of reaction (1).



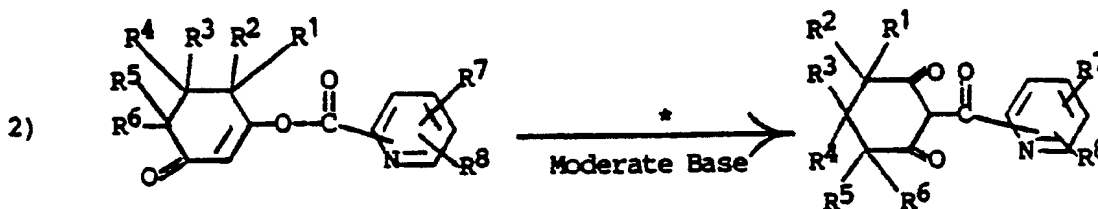
wherein R<sup>1</sup> through R<sup>8</sup> and moderate base are as defined and Y is halogen, preferably chlorine, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>

alkyl-C(O)-O-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy-C(O)-O or



wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> in this portion of the molecule are identical with those in the reactant shown above and the moderate base is as defined, preferably tri-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylamine, alkali metal carbonate or alkali metal phosphate.

Generally, in step (1) mole amounts of the dione and substituted pyridinecarbonyl reactant are used, along with a mole amount or excess of the base. The two reactants are combined in an organic solvent such as methylene chloride, toluene, ethyl acetate or dimethylformamide. The base benzoyl reactant preferably is added to the reaction mixture with cooling. The mixture is stirred at 0°C-50°C until the reaction is substantially complete.



\* = Cyanide source.

wherein the moderate base and R<sup>1</sup> through R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above.

Generally, in step (2) a mole of the enol ester intermediate is reacted with 1 to 4 moles of the moderate base, preferably about 2 moles of moderate base and from 0.01 mole to about 0.5 mole or higher, preferably about 0.01-0.1 mole of the cyanide source. The mixture is stirred in a reaction pot until the rearrangement is substantially complete at a temperature below 50°C, preferably about 20°C to about 40°C, and the desired product is recovered by conventional techniques.

The term "cyanide source" refers to a substance or substances which under the rearrangement conditions consists of or generates hydrogen cyanide and/or cyanide anion.

Preferred cyanide sources are alkali metal cyanides such as sodium and potassium cyanide; cyanohydrins of methyl alkyl ketones having from 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, such as acetone or methyl isobutyl ketone cyanohydrins; benzaldehyde cyanohydrin; cyanohydrins of C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> aliphatic aldehydes such as acetaldehyde cyanohydrin, propionaldehyde cyanohydrin, etc.; cyclohexanone cyanohydrin; lactonitrile; zinc cyanide; di- and tri-(lower alkyl) silyl cyanides, notably dimethyl- and trimethyl- silyl cyanide; potassium ferricyanide; and hydrogen cyanide itself. Hydrogen cyanide is considered most advantageous as it produces relatively rapid reaction and is inexpensive. Among cyanohydrins the preferred cyanide source is acetone cyanohydrin.

The cyanide source is used in an amount up to about 50 mole percent based on the enol ester. It may be used in as little as about 1 mole percent to produce an acceptable rate of reaction at about 40°C on a small scale. Larger scale reactions give more reproducible results with slightly higher catalyst levels of about 2 mole percent. Generally about 1-10 mole % of the cyanide source is preferred.

The process is conducted with a molar excess, with respect to the enol ester, of a moderate base. By the term "moderate base" is meant a substance which acts as a base yet whose strength or activity as a base lies between that of strong bases such as hydroxides (which could cause hydrolysis of the enol ester) and that of weak bases such as N,N-dimethylaniline (which would not function effectively). Moderate bases suitable for use in this embodiment include both organic bases, e.g., trialkylamines such as triethylamine and inorganic bases such as alkali metal carbonates and phosphates. Suitable inorganic bases include potassium carbonate and trisodium phosphate.

The base is used in an amount of from about 1 to about 4 moles per mole of enol ester, preferably about 2 moles per mole.

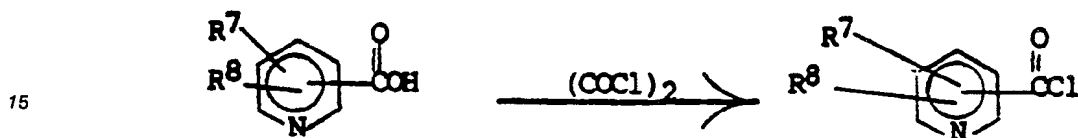
When the cyanide source is an alkali metal cyanide, particularly potassium cyanide, a phase transfer

catalyst may be included in the reaction. Particularly suitable phase transfer catalysts are the crown ethers.

A number of different solvents are useful in this process, depending on the nature of the acid halide of the acylated product. A preferred solvent for this reaction is 1,2-dichloroethane. Other solvents which may be employed, depending on the reactants or products include toluene, acetonitrile, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate, dimethylformamide, and methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK).

In general, depending on the nature of the reactants and the cyanide source, the rearrangement may be conducted at temperatures up to about 50 °C.

The above described substituted pyridinecarbonyl chlorides can be prepared from the corresponding substituted pyridinecarboxylic acids according to the teaching of Reagents for Organic Synthesis, Vol. I, L.F. Fieser and M. Fieser, pp. 767-769 (1967).

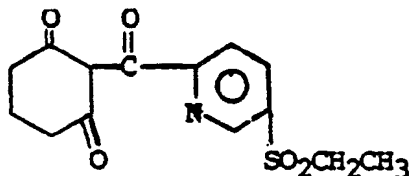


wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are as previously defined.

The following example teaches the synthesis of a representative compound of this invention.

#### EXAMPLE 1

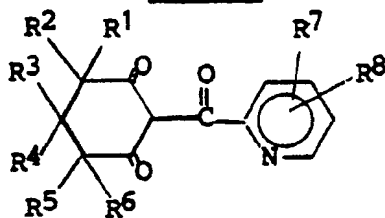
##### 2-(5'-Ethanesulfonylpicolinoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione



1,3-Cyclohexanedione [1.3 grams (g), 11 mmol] and 5-ethanesulfonylpicolinoyl chloride (2.5 g, 11 mmol) were dissolved in 15 milliliters (ml) methylene chloride. Triethylamine (1.6 g, 11 mmol) was added and the resulting solution stirred for 15 minutes at room temperature under an atmosphere of nitrogen. After dilution with methylene chloride, the solution was washed with dilute hydrochloric acid and 5% potassium carbonate solution, dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in 15 ml acetonitrile. Triethylamine (2.9 g, 21 mmol) and acetone cyanohydrin (0.5 g, 6 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature at 30 minutes. After dilution with ethyl acetate, the solution was washed with dilute hydrochloric acid and extracted with 5% potassium carbonate solution. The basic extract was acidified with hydrochloric acid and extracted with methylene chloride. The methylene chloride extract was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum yielding 2.0 g of an oil that was identified as the desired product by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy.

The following is a table of certain selected compounds that are preparable according to the procedure described hereto. Compound numbers are assigned to each compound and are used throughout the remainder of the application.

TABLE I



Cmpd.

| No. | R <sup>1</sup>  | R <sup>2</sup>  | R <sup>3</sup> | R <sup>4</sup> | R <sup>5</sup>  | R <sup>6</sup>  | R <sup>7</sup>    | R <sup>8</sup>                                  | m.p. °C |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|---------|
| 1   | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | H                 | 5-CF <sub>3</sub>                               | wax     |
| 2   | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | 3-Cl              | 5-Cl  | 115-117 |
| 3   | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | 3-Cl              | 5-CF <sub>3</sub>                               | oil     |
| 4   | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H              | H              | CH <sub>3</sub> | H               | H                 | 5-SO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> | oil     |
| 5   | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | H                 | 5-NO <sub>2</sub>                               | oil     |
| 6   | H               | H               | H              | H              | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H                 | 5-SC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>                | oil     |
| 7a  | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | H                 | 5-SO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> | oil     |
| 8   | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H              | H              | H               | H               | H                 | 5-SO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>               | oil     |
| 9   | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | 3-NO <sub>2</sub> | H   | oil     |
| 10  | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H              | H              | H               | H               | 3-NO <sub>2</sub> | H   | oil     |
| 11  | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | =O             |                | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H                 | 5-CF <sub>3</sub>                               | oil     |
| 12  | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | =O             |                | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H                 | 5-SC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>                | oil     |

a) Prepared in Example 1.

Herbicidal Screening Tests

As previously mentioned, the herein described compounds produced in the above-described manner are phytotoxic compounds which are useful and valuable in controlling various plant species. Selected compounds of this invention were tested as herbicides in the following manner.

Pre-emergence herbicide test.

On the day preceding treatment, seeds of seven different weed species are planted in loamy sand soil in individual rows using one species per row across the width of a flat. The seeds used are green foxtail (FT) (*Setaria viridis*), watergrass (WG) (*Echinochloa crusgalli*), wild oat (WO) (*Avena fatua*), annual morning-glory (AMG) (*Ipomoea lacunosa*), velvetleaf (VL) (*Abutilon theophrasti*), Indian mustard (MD) (*Brassica juncea*), and yellow nutsedge (YNG) (*Cyperus esculentus*). Ample seeds are planted to give about 20 to 40 seedlings per row, after emergence, depending upon the size of the plants.

Using an analytical balance, 600 milligrams (mg) of the compound to be tested are weighed out on a piece of glassine weighing paper. The paper and compound are placed in a 60 milliliter (ml) wide-mouth clear bottle and dissolved in 45 ml of acetone or substituted solvent. Eighteen ml of this solution are transferred to a 60 ml wide-mouth clear bottle and diluted with 22 ml of a water and acetone mixture (19:1) containing enough polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate emulsifier to give a final solution of 0.5% (v/v). The solution is then sprayed on a seeded flat on a linear spray table calibrated to deliver 80 gallons per



acre (748 L/ha). The application rate is 4 lb/acre (4.48 Kg/ha).

After treatment, the flats are placed in the greenhouse at a temperature of 70 to 80° F and watered by sprinkling. Two weeks after treatment, the degree of injury or control is determined by comparison with untreated check plants of the same age. The injury rating from 0 to 100% is recorded for each species as percent control with 0% representing no injury and 100% representing complete control.

The results of the tests are shown in the following Table II.

TABLE II

| Pre-Emergence Herbicidal Activity |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Application Rate - 4.48 kg/ha     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cmpd. No.                         | FT  | WG  | WO  | AMG | VL  | MD  | YNS |
| 5                                 | 20  | 100 | 0   | 60  | 98  | 98  | 80  |
| 8                                 | 90  | 100 | 0   | 85  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 9                                 | 85  | 80  | 30  | 70  | 65  | 100 | 30  |
| 10                                | 90  | 90  | 50  | 5   | 80  | 100 | 30  |
| 11                                | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0   |
| 12                                | 100 | 100 | 90  | 90  | 90  | 100 | 0   |

#### Post-Emergence Herbicide Test:

This test is conducted in an identical manner to the testing procedure for the pre-emergence herbicide test, except the seeds of the seven different weed species are planted 1012 days before treatment. Also, watering of the treated flats is confined to the soil surface and not to the foliage of the sprouted plants.

The results of the post-emergence herbicide test are reported in Table III.

TABLE III

| Post-Emergence Herbicidal Activity |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Application Rate - 4.48 kg/ha      |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Cmpd. No.                          | FT  | WG  | WO | AMG | VL  | MD  | YNS |
| 5                                  | 30  | 10  | 60 | 40  | 80  | 80  | 70  |
| 8                                  | 100 | 85  | 0  | 50  | 90  | 80  | 80  |
| 9                                  | 100 | 100 | 60 | 30  | 90  | 80  | 30  |
| 10                                 | 90  | 100 | 60 | 50  | 85  | 40  | 30  |
| 11                                 | 100 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 12                                 | 80  | 80  | 50 | 60  | 60  | 60  | 70  |

#### Pre-Emergence Multi-Weed Herbicide Test

Several compounds were evaluated at an application rate of 2, 1 or 1/4 lb/acre (2.24, 1.12 or 0.28 kg/ha) for pre-emergence activity against a larger number of weed species.

The process was generally similar to the pre-emergence herbicide test described above except that only 300, 150 or 37.5 mg of test compound were weighed out and the application rate was 40 gallons per acre.

|          |                    |                           |        |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Grasses: | downybrome         | <u>Bromus tectorum</u>    | (DB)   |
|          | annual regrass     | <u>Lolium multiflorum</u> | (ARG)  |
|          | rox-orange sorghum | <u>Sorghum bicolor</u>    | (SHC)  |
|          | hemp sesbania      | <u>Sesbania exaltata</u>  | (SESB) |
|          | nightshade         | <u>Solanum sp.</u>        | (SP)   |
|          | cocklebur          | <u>Xanthium sp.</u>       | (CB)   |

The results of the test are shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV

| Pre-Emergence Multi-Weed Herbicide Test |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |      |     |    |     |     |
|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Application Rate - 2.24 kg/ha           |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |      |     |    |     |     |
| Cmpd. No.                               | DB | FT  | ARG | WG  | SHC | WO | BSG | AMG | SESB | VL  | SP | MD  | YNS |
| 1                                       | 20 | 97  | 35  | 100 | -   | 0  | 80  | 70  | 100  | -   | 40 | 100 | 90  |
| 2a                                      | 20 | 30  | 20  | 25  | -   | 25 | 80  | 25  | 80   | 100 | 30 | 85  | 65  |
| 3a                                      | 0  | 100 | 35  | 100 | -   | 20 | 50  | 75  | 90   | 100 | 70 | 100 | 80  |
| 4                                       | -  | 0   | 20  | 95  | 95  | 0  | 70  | 75  | 70   | 100 | 10 | -   | 70  |
| 6                                       | -  | 35  | 0   | 50  | 60  | 20 | 0   | 35  | 40   | 50  | 0  | -   | 20  |
| 7                                       | -  | 0   | 25  | 40  | 60  | 25 | 30  | 80  | 50   | 80  | 35 | -   |     |

a) = Tested at 1.12 kg/ha. A dash (-) indicates not tested.

### 30 Post-Emergence Multi-Weed Herbicide Test:

This test is conducted in an identical manner to the testing procedure for the post-emergence herbicide test, except the seeds of the eight weed species used in the pre-emergence multi-weed herbicide test were used and the seeds were planted 10-12 days before treatment. Also, watering of the treated flats is confined to the soil surface and not to the foliage of the sprouted plants.

The results of the post-emergence multi-weed herbicide test are reported in Table V.

TABLE V

| Post-Emergence Multi-Weed Herbicide Test |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |      |     |    |     |     |    |
|--|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| Application Rate - 2.24 kg/ha            |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |      |     |    |     |     |    |
| Cmpd. No.                                | DB | FT  | ARG | WG  | SHC | WO | BSG | AMG | SESB | VL  | SP | MD  | YNS | CB |
| 1  | 40 | 50  | 10  | 80  | -   | 0  | 25  | 95  | 100  | 100 | 80 | 100 | 70  | -  |
| 2a                                       | 40 | 70  | 15  | 75  | -   | 15 | 70  | 70  | 100  | 85  | 50 | 85  | 30  | 60 |
| 3a                                       | 25 | 100 | 0   | 100 | -   | 0  | 80  | 90  | 100  | 100 | 60 | 100 | 45  | -  |
| 4  | -  | 10  | 0   | 100 | 60  | 0  | 40  | 95  | 100  | 100 | 35 | -   | 20  | 95 |
| 6  | -  | 0   | 0   | 40  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 60  | 80   | 100 | 0  | -   | 0   | 40 |
| 7  | -  | 50  | 0   | 90  | 40  | 20 | 40  | 95  | 90   | 100 | 50 | -   | 40  | 35 |

a) = Tested at 1.12 kg/ha. A dash (-) indicates not tested.

The compounds of the present invention and their salts are useful as herbicides and can be applied in a variety of ways at various concentrations. In practice, the compounds or salts are formulated into herbicidal compositions, by admixture, in herbicidally effective amounts, with the adjuvants and carriers normally employed for facilitating the dispersion of active ingredients for agricultural applications, recognizing the fact

that the formulation and mode of application of a toxicant may affect the activity of the materials in a given application. Thus, these active herbicidal compounds or salts can be formulated as granules of relatively large particle size, as wettable powders, as emulsifiable concentrates, as powdery dusts, as flowables, as solutions or as any of several other known types of formulations, depending upon the desired mode of application. These formulations may contain as little as about 0.5% to as much as about 95% or more by weight of active ingredient. A herbicidally effective amount depends upon the nature of the seeds or plants to be controlled and the rate of application varies from about 0.01 to approximately 10 pounds per acre, preferably from about 0.02 to about 4 pounds per acre.

Wettable powders are in the form of finely divided particles which disperse readily in water or other dispersants. The wettable powder is ultimately applied to the soil either as a dry dust or as a dispersion in water or other liquid. Typical carriers for wettable powders include fuller's earth, kaolin clays, silicas and other readily wet organic or inorganic diluents. Wettable powders normally are prepared to contain about 5% to about 95% of the active ingredient and usually also contain a small amount of wetting, dispersing, or emulsifying agent to facilitate wetting and dispersion.

Emulsifiable concentrates are homogeneous liquid compositions which are dispersible in water or other dispersant, and may consist entirely of the active compound or salt with a liquid or solid emulsifying agent, or may also contain a liquid carrier, such as xylene, heavy aromatic naphthal, isophorone and other non-volatile organic solvents. For herbicidal application, these concentrates are dispersed in water or other liquid carrier and normally applied as a spray to the area to be treated. The percentage by weight of the essential active ingredient may vary according to the manner in which the composition is to be applied, but in general comprises about 0.5% to 95% of active ingredient by weight of the herbicidal composition.

Granular formulations wherein the toxicant is carried on relatively coarse particles, are usually applied without dilution to the area in which suppression of vegetation is desired. Typical carriers for granular formulations include sand, fuller's earth, attapulgite clay, bentonite clays, montmorillonite clay, vermiculite, perlite and other organic or inorganic materials which absorb or which may be coated with the toxicant. Granular formulations normally are prepared to contain from about 5% to about 25% of active ingredients which may include surface-active agents such heavy aromatic naphthas, kerosene or other petroleum fractions, or vegetable oils; and/or stickers such as destrins, glue or synthetic resins.

Typical wetting, dispersing or emulsifying agents used in agricultural formulations include, for example, the alkyl and alkylaryl sulfonates and sulfates and their salts; polyhydric alcohols; polyethoxylated alcohols; esters and fatty amines; and other types of surface-active agents, many of which are available in commerce. The surface-active agent, when used, normally comprises from 0.1% to 15% by weight of the herbicidal composition.

Dusts, which are free-flowing admixtures of the active ingredient with finely divided solids such as talc, clays, flours and other organic and inorganic solids which act as dispersants and carriers for the toxicant, are useful formulations for soil-incorporating application.

Pastes, which are homogeneous suspensions of a finely divided solid toxicant in a liquid carrier such as water or oil, are employed for specific purposes. These formulations normally contain about 5% to about 95% of active ingredient by weight, and may also contain small amounts of a wetting, dispersing or emulsifying agent to facilitate dispersion. For application, the pastes are normally diluted and applied as a spray to the area to be affected.

Other useful formulations for herbicidal applications include simple solutions of the active ingredient in a dispersant in which it is completely soluble at the desired concentration, such as acetone, alkylated naphthalenes, xylene and other organic solvents. Pressurized sprays, typically aerosols, wherein the active ingredient is dispersed in finely-divided form as a result of vaporization of a low boiling dispersant solvent carrier, such as the Freons, may also be used.

The phytotoxic compositions of this invention can be applied to the plants in the conventional manner. Thus, the dust and liquid compositions can be applied to the plant by the use of power-dusters, boom and hand sprayers and spray dusters. The compositions can also be applied from airplanes as a dust or a spray or by rope wick applications because they are effective in very low dosages. In order to modify or control growth of germinating seeds or emerging seedlings, as a typical example, the dust and liquid compositions can be applied to the soil according to conventional methods and can be distributed in the soil to a depth of at least 1/2 inch below the soil surface. It is not necessary that the phytotoxic compositions be mechanically admixed with the soil particles since these compositions can also be applied merely by spraying or sprinkling the surface of the soil. The phytotoxic compositions of this invention can also be applied by addition to irrigation water supplied to the field to be treated. This method of application permits the penetration of the compositions into the soil as the water is absorbed therein. Dust compositions, granular compositions or liquid formulations applied to the surface of the soil can be distributed below the surface of

the soil by conventional means such as discing, dragging or mixing operations. In the following examples the herbicidal compound can be substituted with the herbicidal salt of the compound.

| EMULSIFIABLE CONCENTRATE FORMULATIONS              |       |  |      |
|--|-------|--|------|
| General Formula with Ranges                        |       | Specific Formula   |      |
| Herbicidal compound<br>surfactant(s)<br>solvent(s) | 5-55  | herbicidal compound  | 24   |
|  | 5-25  | proprietary blend of oil-soluble sulfonates and polyoxyethylene ethers | 10   |
|  | 20-90 | polar solvent  | 27   |
|  | 100%  | petroleum hydrocarbon  | 39   |
|  |       |  | 100% |

| WETTABLE POWDER FORMULATIONS |        |                                      |      |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|------|
| herbicidal compound          | 3-90   | herbicidal compound                  | 80   |
| wetting agent                | 0.5-2  | sodium dialkyl naphthalene sulfonate | 0.5  |
| dispersing agent             | 1-8    | sodium lignosulfonate                | 7    |
| diluent(s)                   | 8.5-87 | attapulgite clay                     | 12.5 |
|                              |        |                                      | 100% |

| EXTRUDED GRANULAR FORMULATIONS |       |                     |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| herbicidal compound            | 1-20  | herbicidal compound | 10   |
| binding agent                  | 0-10  | lignin sulfonate    | 5    |
| diluent(s)                     | 70-99 | calcium carbonate   | 85   |
|                                |       |                     | 100% |

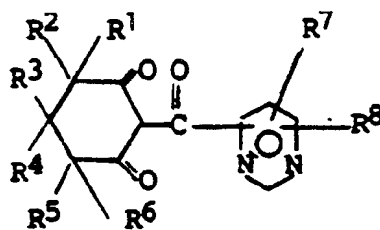
| FLOWABLE FORMULATIONS |            |                             |      |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------|
| herbicidal compound   | 20-70      | herbicidal compound         | 45   |
| surfactant(s)         | 1-10       | polyoxyethylene ether       | 5    |
| suspending agent(s)   | 0.05-1     | attagel                     | 0.05 |
| antifreeze agent      | 1-10       | propylene glycol            | 10   |
| antimicrobial agent   | 1-10       | 1,2-benzisothiazoline-3-one | 0.03 |
| antifoam agent        | 0.1-1      | silicone defoamer           | 0.02 |
| solvent               | 7.95-77.85 | water                       | 39.9 |
|                       |            |                             | 100% |

When salts are used as the active ingredient in the herbicidal compositions of this invention it is recommended to use salts that are agriculturally acceptable.

The phytotoxic compositions of this invention can also contain other additives, for examples, fertilizers, other herbicides and other pesticides, used as adjuvant or in combination with any of the above-described adjuvants. Fertilizers useful in combination with the active ingredients include, for example, ammonium nitrate, urea and superphosphate.

Another embodiment of this invention is an herbicidal composition comprising an herbicidally active 2-(pyrimidinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione and an inert carrier therefor. The 4- or 6-positions of the 1,3-cyclohexanedione moiety can be substituted with one or two C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups, preferably with methyl groups, although such a substitution is not preferred. The 5-position of the 1,3-cyclohexanedione ring can be substituted with an oxo group when both the 4- and 6-positions each are substituted with two C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups.

Also embodied within the scope of this invention are novel compounds having the following structural formula



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; phenyl; or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; or

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkylene;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; phenyl; or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that R<sup>1</sup> and

R<sup>3</sup> are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together are oxo;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl; and

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen, preferably chlorine, fluorine or bromine; (3) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>

alkyl, preferably methyl; (4) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, preferably methoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8)

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, more preferably trifluoromethyl; (9) R<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>n</sub>-wherein n is the integer 0, 1 or 2, preferably 2;

and

R<sup>b</sup> is

(a) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl;

(b) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano, preferably chloromethyl, trifluoromethyl or cyanomethyl;

(c) phenyl; or

(d) benzyl;

(10) -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein

R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

(11) R<sup>e</sup>C(O)- wherein R<sup>e</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy;

(12) -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; or

(13) -N(R<sup>c</sup>)C(O)R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined.

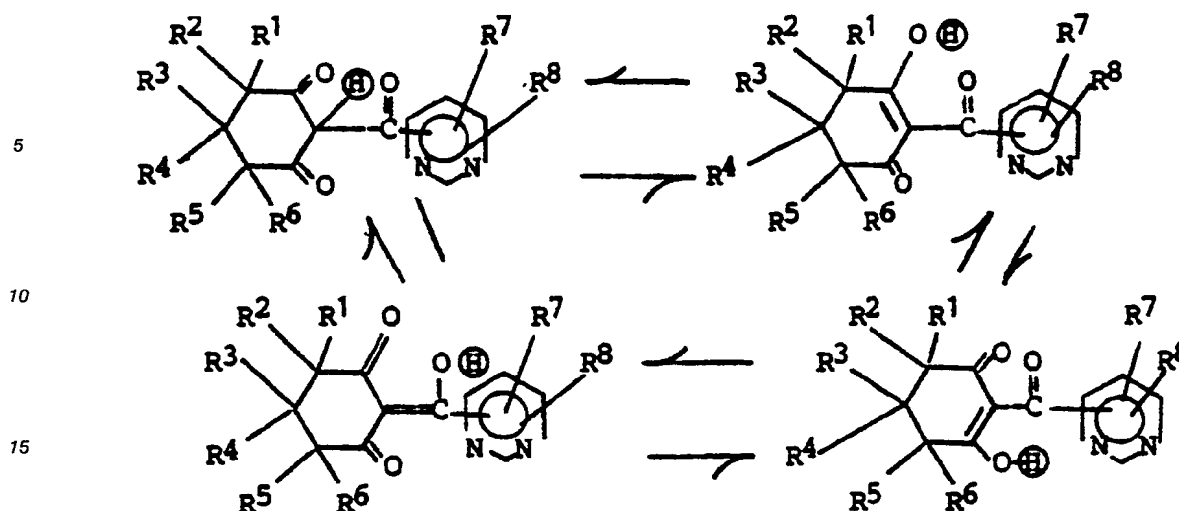
Preferably R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> thioalkyl.

Most preferably, R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen. Preferably R<sup>8</sup> is halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, or R<sup>b</sup> wherein R<sup>b</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, preferably methyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, preferably chloromethyl, difluoromethyl or trifluoromethyl.

The term "C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl" includes methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, isobutyl and t-butyl. The term "halogen" includes chlorine, bromine, iodine and fluorine. The terms "C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy" includes methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, isobutoxy and t-butoxy. The term "C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl" includes the alkyl groups defined above under C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl in which one or more hydrogens is replaced by chlorine, bromine, iodine or fluorine.

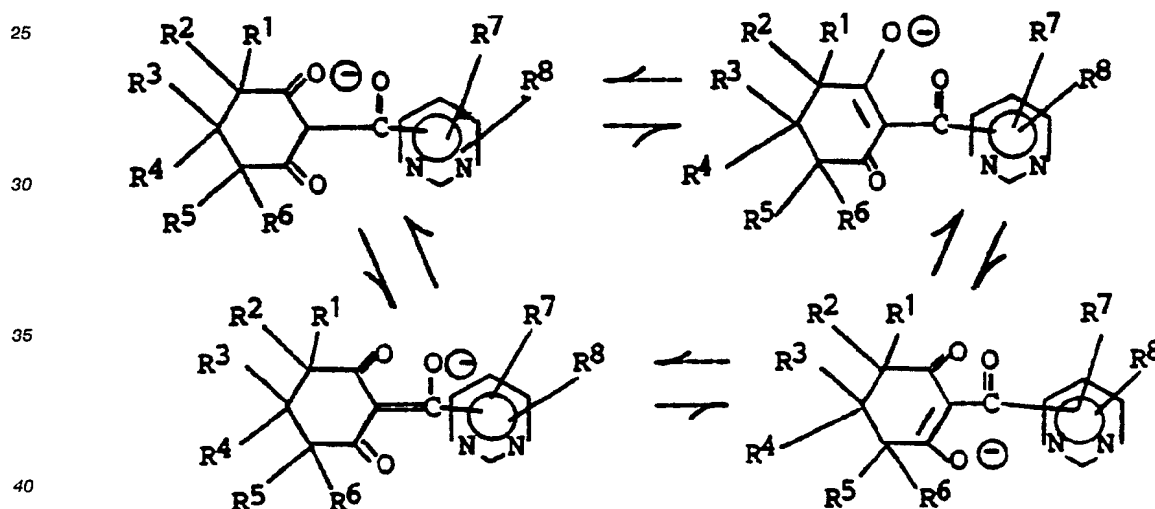
Salts of the above-described compounds (as defined hereinafter) are included within the scope of the instant invention.

The compounds of this invention can have the following four structural formulae because of tautomerism:



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are as defined above.

The circled proton on each of the four tautomers is reasonably labile. These protons are acidic and can be removed by reaction with a base to form a salt, including internal salts, having an anion of the following four resonance forms:



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are as defined above.

Examples of cations of these bases are inorganic cations such as alkali metals, e.g. lithium, sodium and potassium; the alkaline earth metals, e.g. calcium and magnesium or ammonium or organic cations such as substituted ammonium, sulfonium, sulfoxonium or phosphonium wherein the substituents are aliphatic or aromatic groups, or internal pyrimidinium.

Those skilled in the art will recognize in considering the salts of this invention that varying degrees of association between the anion and cation will exist depending upon the nature of the cation. In some instances with a suitable cation, such as copper, the salt can exist in a chelated form.

The compounds of this invention and their salts are active herbicides of a general type. That is, they are herbicidally effective against a wide range of plant species. The method of controlling undesirable vegetation of the present invention comprises applying an herbicidally effective amount of the above-described compounds or their salts to the area where control is desired.

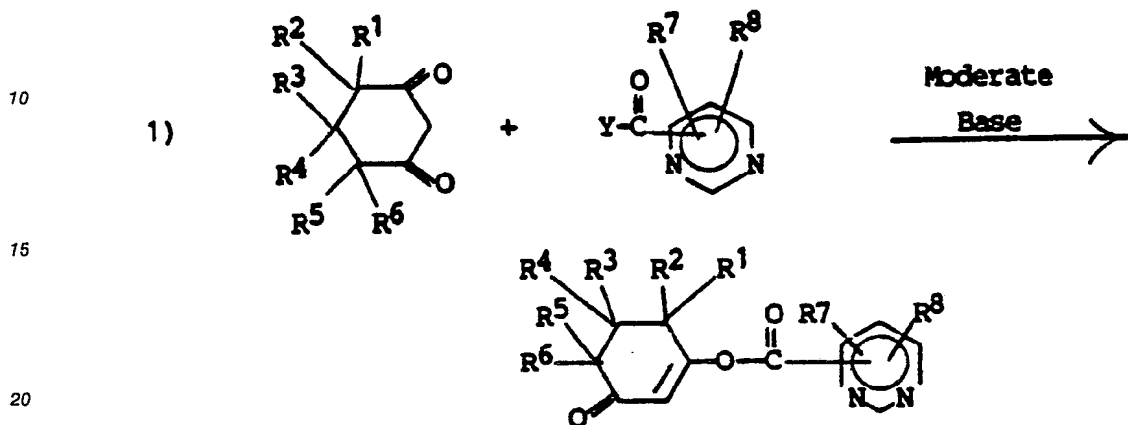
The compounds of the present invention can be prepared by the following two-step general method.

The process proceeds via the production of an enol ester intermediate as shown in reaction (1). The final product is obtained by rearrangement of the enol ester as shown in reaction (2).

The process is conducted in the presence of a catalytic amount of a source of cyanide anion and/or

hydrogen cyanide, together with a molar excess, with respect to the enol ester, of a moderate base.

The two reactions may be conducted as separate steps by isolation and recovery of the enol ester using conventional techniques prior to conducting step (2), or by addition of a cyanide source to the reaction medium after the formation of the enol ester, or in one step by inclusion of the cyanide source at the start of reaction (1).

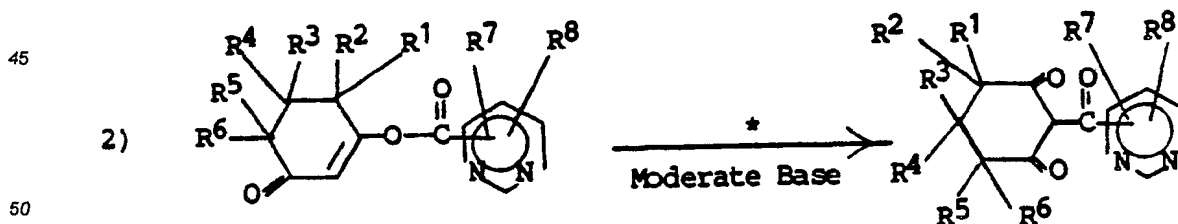


wherein R<sup>1</sup> through R<sup>8</sup> and moderate base are as defined and Y is halogen, preferably chlorine, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl-C(O)-O-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy-C(O)-O- or



wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> in this portion of the molecule are identical with those in the reactant shown above and the moderate base is as defined, preferably tri-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylamine, alkali metal carbonate or alkali metal phosphate.

Generally, in step (1) mole amounts of the dione and substituted pyrimidinecarbonyl reactant are used, along with a mole amount or excess of the base. The two reactants are combined in an organic solvent such as methylene chloride, toluene, ethyl acetate or dimethylformamide. The base or pyrimidinecarbonyl reactant preferably is added to the reaction mixture with cooling. The mixture is stirred at 0° C-50° C until the reaction is substantially complete.



\* = Cyanide source.

wherein the moderate base and R<sup>1</sup> through R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above.

Generally, in step (2) a mole of the enol ester intermediate is reacted with 1 to 4 moles of the moderate base, preferably about 2 moles of moderate base and from 0.01 mole to about 0.5 mole or higher, preferably about 0.01-0.1 mole of the cyanide source. The mixture is stirred in a reaction pot until the

rearrangement is substantially complete at a temperature below 50° C, preferably about 20° C to about 40° C, and the desired product is recovered by conventional techniques.

The term "cyanide source" refers to a substance or substances which under the rearrangement conditions consists of or generates hydrogen cyanide and/or cyanide anion.

5 Preferred cyanide sources are alkali metal cyanides such as sodium and potassium cyanide; cyanohydrins of methyl alkyl ketones having from 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, such as acetone or methyl isobutyl ketone cyanohydrins; benzaldehyde cyanohydrin; cyanohydrins of C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> aliphatic aldehydes such as acetaldehyde cyanohydrin, propionaldehyde cyanohydrin, etc.; cyclohexanone cyanohydrin; lactonitrile; zinc cyanide; di- and tri-(lower alkyl) silyl cyanides, notably dimethyl- and trimethyl- silyl cyanide; potassium ferricyanide; and hydrogen cyanide itself. Hydrogen cyanide is considered most advantageous as it produces relatively rapid reaction and is inexpensive. Among cyanohydrins the preferred cyanide source is acetone cyanohydrin.

15 The cyanide source is used in an amount up to about 50 mole percent based on the enol ester. It may be used in as little as about 1 mole percent to produce an acceptable rate of reaction at about 40° C on a small scale. Larger scale reactions give more reproducible results with slightly higher catalyst levels of about 2 mole percent. Generally about 1-10 mole % of the cyanide source is preferred.

20 The process is conducted with a molar excess, with respect to the enol ester, of a moderate base. By the term "moderate base" is meant a substance which acts as a base yet whose strength or activity as a base lies between that of strong bases such as hydroxides (which could cause hydrolysis of the enol ester) and that of weak bases such as N,N-dimethylaniline (which would not function effectively). Moderate bases suitable for use in this embodiment include both organic bases, e.g., trialkylamines such as triethylamine and inorganic bases such as alkali metal carbonates and phosphates. Suitable inorganic bases include potassium carbonate and trisodium phosphate.

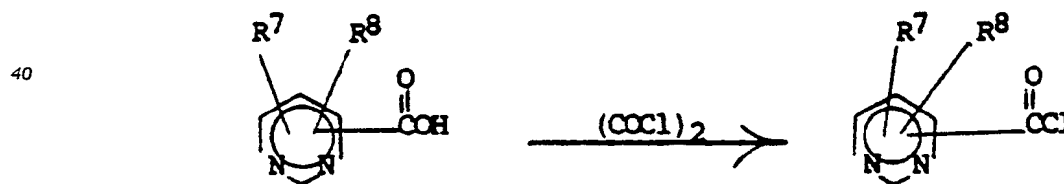
25 The base is used in an amount of from about 1 to about 4 moles per mole of enol ester, preferably about 2 moles per mole.

When the cyanide source is an alkali metal cyanide, particularly potassium cyanide, a phase transfer catalyst may be included in the reaction. Particularly suitable phase transfer catalysts are the crown ethers.

30 A number of different solvents are useful in this process, depending on the nature of the acid halide or the acylated product. A preferred solvent for this reaction is 1,2-dichloroethane. Other solvents which may be employed, depending on the reactants or products include toluene, acetonitrile, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate, dimethylformamide, and methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK).

In general, depending on the nature of the reactants and the cyanide source, the rearrangement may be conducted at temperatures up to about 50° C.

35 The above described substituted pyrimidinecarbonyl chlorides can be prepared from the corresponding substituted pyrimidinecarboxylic acids according to the teaching of Reagents for Organic Synthesis, Vol. I, L.F. Fieser and M. Fieser, pp. 767-769 (1967).



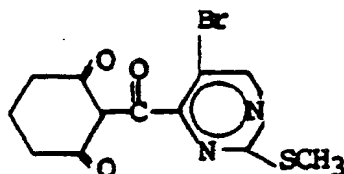
wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are as previously defined.

The following example teaches the synthesis of a representative compound of this invention.

## 50 EXAMPLE 2

55 2-(5'-Bromo-2'-methylthiopyrimidine-4-carbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione

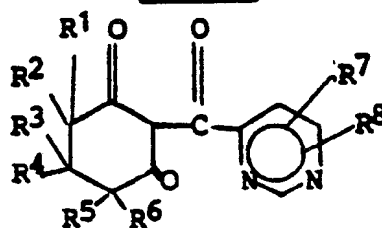




1,3-Cyclohexanedione [1.3 grams (g), 12 mmol] and 5-bromo-2-methylthiopyrimidine-4-carbonyl chloride (3.2 g, 12 mmol) were dissolved in 15 milliliters (ml) acetonitrile. Triethylamine (4.2 ml, 30 mmol) was added and the resulting solution stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Acetone cyanohydrin (1.0 ml, 11 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. After dilution with ethyl acetate, the solution was washed with dilute hydrochloric acid and extracted with 5% potassium carbonate solution. The basic extract was acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid and extracted with methylene chloride. The methylene chloride extract was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum to yield 2.7 g of a brown solid (m.p. 140-141°C) that was identified as the desired product by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy.

The following Tables 1 and 2 show certain selected compounds that are preparable according to the procedure described hereto. Compound numbers are assigned to each compound and are used throughout the remainder of the application.

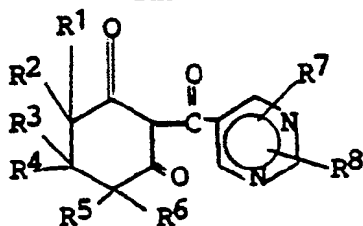
TABLE 1



| Compd.<br>No. | R <sup>1</sup>  | R <sup>2</sup>  | R <sup>3</sup> | R <sup>4</sup> | R <sup>5</sup>  | R <sup>6</sup>  | R <sup>7</sup>     | R <sup>8</sup> | m.p. °C |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| 13            | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | 4-Cl               | H              | oil     |
| 14            | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H              | H              | H               | H               | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub> | 5-Cl           | oil     |
| 15a           | H               | H               | H              | H              | H               | H               | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub> | 5-Br           | 140-141 |
| 16            | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | OH             |                | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub> | 5-Br           | gum     |

a) Prepared in Example 2.

TABLE 2



| Compd.<br>No. | R <sup>1</sup>  | R <sup>2</sup>  | R <sup>3</sup>  | R <sup>4</sup>  | R <sup>5</sup> | R <sup>6</sup> | R <sup>7</sup>                     | R <sup>8</sup>     | m.p. °C |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 17            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-OCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-OCH <sub>3</sub> | oil     |
| 18            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 90-91   |
| 19            | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | oil     |
| 20            | H               | H               | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H              | H              | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-OCH <sub>3</sub> | 102-104 |
| 21            | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-SCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-OCH <sub>3</sub> | oil     |
| 22            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 93-95   |
| 23            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-OCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 102-103 |
| 24            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-OCH <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-CF <sub>3</sub>  | oil     |
| 25            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>    | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 50-55   |
| 26            | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>    | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | oil     |
| 27            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-iPr                              | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 65-70   |
| 28            | CH <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-iPr                              | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | oil     |
| 29            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>    | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 72-80   |
| 30            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-CF <sub>3</sub>                  | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 90-85   |
| 31            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>    | 4-CF <sub>3</sub>  | oil     |
| 32            | H               | H               | H               | H               | H              | H              | 2-CCl <sub>3</sub>                 | 4-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 125-128 |

#### Herbicide Screening Tests

As previously mentioned, the herein described compounds produced in the above-described manner are phytotoxic compounds which are useful and valuable in controlling various plant species. Selected compounds of this invention were tested as herbicides in the following manner.

#### Pre-emergence herbicide test.

On the day preceding treatment, seeds of seven different weed species are planted in loamy sand soil in individual rows using one species per row across the width of a flat. The seeds used are green foxtail (FT) (*Setaria viridis*), watergrass (WG) (*Echinochloa crusgalli*), wild oat (WO) (*Avena fatua*), annual morning-glory (AMG) (*Ipomoea lacunosa*), velvetleaf (VL) (*Abutilon theophrasti*), Indian mustard (MD) (*Brassica juncea*), and yellow nutsedge (YNG) (*Cyperus esculentus*). Ample seeds are planted to give about 20 to 40 seedlings per row, after emergence, depending upon the size of the plants.

Using an analytical balance, 600 milligrams (mg) of the compound to be tested are weighed out on a

piece of glassine weighing paper. The paper and compound are placed in a 60 milliliter (ml) wide-mouth clear bottle and dissolved in 45 ml of acetone or substituted solvent. Eighteen ml of this solution are transferred to a 60 ml wide-mouth clear bottle and diluted with 22 ml of a water and acetone mixture (19:1) containing enough polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate emulsifier to give a final solution of 0.5% (v/v).

5 The solution is then sprayed on a seeded flat on a linear spray table calibrated to deliver 80 gallons per acre (748 L/ha). The application rate is 4 lb/acre (4.48 Kg/ha).

After treatment, the flats are placed in the greenhouse at a temperature of 70 to 80 ° F and watered by sprinkling. Two weeks after treatment, the degree of injury or control is determined by comparison with untreated check plants of the same age. The injury rating from 0 to 100% is recorded for each species as

10 percent control with 0% representing no injury and 100% representing complete control.

The results of the tests are shown in the following Table 3.

TABLE 3

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| Pre-Emergence Herbicidal Activity |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Application Rate -- 4.48 kg/ha    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cmpd. No.                         | FT  | WG  | WO  | AMG | VL  | MD  | YNS |
| 13                                | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 14                                | 0   | 50  | 0   | 0   | 100 | 0   | 80  |
| 15                                | 0   | 30  | 0   | 5   | 100 | 80  | 80  |
| 16                                | 0   | 90  | 0   | 20  | 100 | 0   | 0   |
| 17                                | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 18                                | 30  | 40  | 5   | 5   | 80  | 100 | 80  |
| 19                                | 5   | 10  | 0   | 0   | 100 | 20  | 80  |
| 20                                | 0   | 0   | 0   | 5   | 0   | 10  | 0   |
| 21                                | 0   | 0   | 0   | 5   | 0   | 10  | 10  |
| 22                                | 100 | 90  | 10  | 40  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 23                                | 40  | 100 | 30  | 90  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 24                                | 100 | 100 | 60  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 25                                | 100 | 100 | 90  | 90  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 26                                | 100 | 100 | 80  | 80  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 27                                | 100 | 100 | 90  | 80  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 28                                | 100 | 100 | 85  | 90  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 29                                | 100 | 100 | 85  | 80  | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 30                                | 100 | 100 | 50  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 31                                | 100 | 100 | 50  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 80  |
| 32                                | 100 | 100 | 20  | 40  | 100 | 100 | 30  |

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#### 45 Post-Emergence Herbicide Test:

This test is conducted in an identical manner to the testing procedure for the pre-emergence herbicide test, except the seeds of the seven different weed species are planted 10-12 days before treatment. Also, watering of the treated flats is confined to the soil surface and not to the foliage of the sprouted plants.

The results of the post-emergence herbicide test are reported in Table 4.

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TABLE 4

| Post-Emergence Herbicidal Activity |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Application Rate -- 4.48 kg/ha     |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Cmpd. No.                          | FT  | WG  | WO | AMG | VL  | MD  | YNS |
| 13                                 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 10  |
| 14                                 | 0   | 10  | 0  | 0   | 90  | 10  | 0   |
| 15                                 | 0   | 10  | 0  | 20  | 90  | 0   | 0   |
| 16                                 | 0   | 50  | 0  | 10  | 80  | 0   | 30  |
| 17                                 | 70  | 80  | 80 | 20  | 90  | 90  | 65  |
| 18                                 | 30  | 30  | 0  | 20  | 80  | 50  | 80  |
| 19                                 | 30  | 50  | 0  | 20  | 50  | 10  | 30  |
| 20                                 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 0   | 5   | 0   |
| 21                                 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 20  | 10  | 5   |
| 22                                 | 30  | 60  | 30 | 40  | 90  | 60  | 70  |
| 23                                 | 50  | 50  | 20 | 50  | 50  | 50  | 20  |
| 24                                 | 60  | 60  | 50 | 80  | 80  | 80  | 70  |
| 25                                 | 80  | 80  | 40 | 80  | 100 | 100 | 60  |
| 26                                 | 80  | 80  | 40 | 85  | 100 | 80  | 60  |
| 27                                 | 90  | 80  | 30 | 80  | 100 | 90  | 40  |
| 28                                 | 100 | 85  | 90 | 85  | 100 | 90  | 70  |
| 29                                 | 90  | 80  | 40 | 80  | 95  | 95  | 70  |
| 30                                 | 100 | 100 | 30 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 30  |
| 31                                 | 80  | 100 | 20 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 70  |
| 32                                 | 100 | 90  | 10 | 20  | 100 | 90  | 30  |

The compounds of the present invention and their salts are useful as herbicides and can be applied in a variety of ways at various concentrations. In practice, the compounds or salts are formulated into herbicidal compositions, by admixture, in herbicidally effective amounts, with the adjuvants and carriers normally employed for facilitating the dispersion of active ingredients for agricultural applications, recognizing the fact that the formulation and mode of application of a toxicant may affect the activity of the materials in a given application. Thus, these active herbicidal compounds or salts can be formulated as granules of relatively large particle size, as wettable powders, as emulsifiable concentrates, as powdery dusts, as flowables, as solutions or as any of several other known types of formulations, depending upon the desired mode of application. These formulations may contain as little as about 0.5% to as much as about 95% or more by weight of active ingredient. A herbicidally effective amount depends upon the nature of the seeds or plants to be controlled and the rate of application varies from about 0.01 to approximately 10 pounds per acre, preferably from about 0.02 to about 4 pounds per acre.

Wettable powders are in the form of finely divided particles which disperse readily in water or other dispersants. The wettable powder is ultimately applied to the soil either as a dry dust or as a dispersion in water or other liquid. Typical carriers for wettable powders include fuller's earth, kaolin clays, silicas and other readily wet organic or inorganic diluents. Wettable powders normally are prepared to contain about 5% to about 95% of the active ingredient and usually also contain a small amount of wetting, dispersing, or emulsifying agent to facilitate wetting and dispersion.

Emulsifiable concentrates are homogeneous liquid compositions which are dispersible in water or other dispersant, and may consist entirely of the active compound or salt with a liquid or solid emulsifying agent, or may also contain a liquid carrier, such as xylene, heavy aromatic naphthal, isophorone and other non-volatile organic solvents. For herbicidal application, these concentrates are dispersed in water or other liquid carrier and normally applied as a spray to the area to be treated. The percentage by weight of the essential active ingredient may vary according to the manner in which the composition is to be applied, but in general comprises about 0.5% to 95% of active ingredient by weight of the herbicidal composition.

Granular formulations wherein the toxicant is carried on relatively coarse particles, are usually applied without dilution to the area in which suppression of vegetation is desired. Typical carriers for granular formulations include sand, fuller's earth, attapulgite clay, bentonite clays, montmorillonite clay, vermiculite, perlite and other organic or inorganic materials which absorb or which may be coated with the toxicant.

Granular formulations normally are prepared to contain from about to about 25% of active ingredients which may include surface-active agents such heavy aromatic naphthas, kerosene or other petroleum fractions, or vegetable oils; and/or stickers such as destrins, glue or synthetic resins.

Typical wetting, dispersing or emulsifying agents used in agricultural formulations include, for example, the alkyl and alkylaryl sulfonates and sulfates and their salts; polyhydric alcohols; polyethoxylated alcohols; esters and fatty amines; and other types of surface-active agents, many of which are available in commerce. The surface-active agent, when used, normally comprises from 0.1% to 15% by weight of the herbicidal composition.

Dusts, which are free-flowing admixtures of the active ingredient with finely divided solids such as talc, clays, flours and other organic and inorganic solids which act as dispersants and carriers for the toxicant, are useful formulations for soil-incorporating application.

Pastes, which are homogeneous suspensions of a finely divided solid toxicant in a liquid carrier such as water or oil, are employed for specific purposes. These formulations normally contain about 5% to about 95% of active ingredient by weight, and may also contain small amounts of a wetting, dispersing or emulsifying agent to facilitate dispersion. For application, the pastes are normally diluted and applied as a spray to the area to be affected.

Other useful formulations for herbicidal applications include simple solutions of the active ingredient in a dispersant in which it is completely soluble at the desired concentration, such as acetone, alkylated naphthalenes, xylene and other organic solvents. Pressurized sprays, typically aerosols, wherein the active ingredient is dispersed in finely-divided form as a result of vaporization of a low boiling dispersant solvent carrier, such as the Freons, may also be used.

The phytotoxic compositions of this invention can be applied to the plants in the conventional manner. Thus, the dust and liquid compositions can be applied to the plant by the use of power-dusters, boom and hand sprayers and spray dusters. The compositions can also be applied from airplanes as a dust or a spray or by rope wick applications because they are effective in very low dosages. In order to modify or control growth of germinating seeds or emerging seedlings, as a typical example, the dust and liquid compositions can be applied to the soil according to conventional methods and can be distributed in the soil to a depth of at least 1/2 inch below the soil surface. It is not necessary that the phytotoxic compositions be mechanically admixed with the soil particles since these compositions can also be applied merely by spraying or sprinkling the surface of the soil. The phytotoxic compositions of this invention can also be applied by addition to irrigation water supplied to the field to be treated. This method of application permits the penetration of the compositions into the soil as the water is absorbed therein. Dust compositions, granular compositions or liquid formulations applied to the surface of the soil can be distributed below the surface of the soil by conventional means such as discing, dragging or mixing operations. In the following examples the herbicidal compound can be substituted with the herbicidal salt of the compound.

| EMULSIFIABLE CONCENTRATE FORMULATIONS |       |  |      |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|------|
| General Formula with Ranges           |       | Specific Formula   |      |
| Herbicidal compound                   | 5-55  | herbicidal compound  | 24   |
| surfactant(s)                         | 5-25  | proprietary blend of oil-soluble sulfonates and polyoxyethylene ethers | 10   |
| solvent(s)                            | 20-90 | polar solvent  | 27   |
|                                       | 100%  | petroleum hydrocarbon  | 39   |
|                                       |       |  | 100% |

| WETTABLE POWDER FORMULATIONS |        |                                      |      |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|------|
| herbicidal compound          | 3-90   | herbicidal compound                  | 80   |
| wetting agent                | 0.5-2  | sodium dialkyl naphthalene sulfonate | 0.5  |
| dispersing agent             | 1-8    | sodium lignosulfonate                | 7    |
| diluent(s)                   | 8.5-87 | attapulgit clay                      | 12.5 |
|                              | 100%   |                                      | 100% |

| EXTRUDED GRANULAR FORMULATIONS |       |                     |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| herbicidal compound            | 1-20  | herbicidal compound | 10   |
| binding agent                  | 0-10  | lignin sulfonate    | 5    |
| diluent(s)                     | 70-99 | calcium carbonate   | 85   |
|                                | 100%  |                     | 100% |

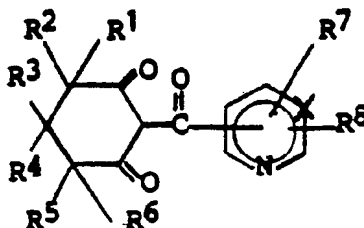
| FLOWABLE FORMULATIONS |            |                             |      |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------|
| herbicidal compound   | 20-70      | herbicidal compound         | 45   |
| surfactant(s)         | 1-10       | polyoxyethylene ether       | 5    |
| suspending agent(s)   | 0.05-1     | attagel                     | 0.05 |
| antifreeze agent      | 1-10       | propylene glycol            | 10   |
| antimicrobial agent   | 1-10       | 1,2-benzisothiazoline-3-one | 0.03 |
| antifoam agent        | 0.1-1      | silicone defoamer           | 0.02 |
| solvent               | 7.95-77.85 | water                       | 39.9 |
|                       | 100%       |                             | 100% |

When salts are used as the active ingredient in the herbicidal compositions of this invention it is recommended to use salts that are agriculturally acceptable.

The phytotoxic compositions of this invention can also contain other additives, for example, fertilizers, other herbicides and other pesticides, used as adjuvant or in combination with any of the above-described adjuvants. Fertilizers useful in combination with the active ingredients include, for example, ammonium nitrate, urea and superphosphate.

## Claims

### 1. Compounds of the formula

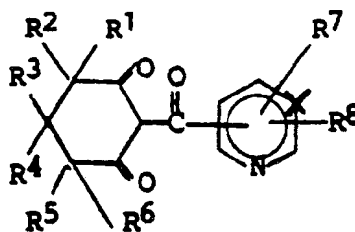


wherein

- X is =  $\overset{|}{\text{C}}\text{H}$  or =N- ;  
 R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;  
 R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or  
 R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkylene;  
 R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;  
 R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or  
 R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together are oxo;  
 R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;  
 R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and  
 R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen; (3) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (4) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl; (9) R<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>n</sub>- wherein n is the integer 0, 1 or 2; and R<sup>b</sup> is (a) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (b) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano; (c) phenyl; or (d) benzyl; (10) -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (11) R<sup>e</sup>C(O)- wherein R<sup>e</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>

alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy; or (12) -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; and (13) -N(R<sup>c</sup>)C(O)R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; and their salts.

2. The method of controlling undesirable vegetation comprising applying to the area where control is desired, an herbicidally effective amount of a compound having the formula



wherein

X is =  $\overset{\text{I}}{\text{C}}\text{H}$  or =N-;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkylene;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together are oxo;

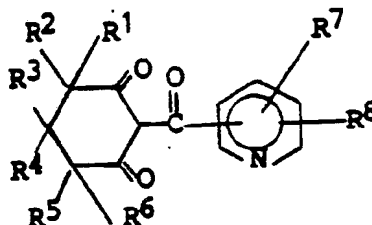
R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen; (3) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (4) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl; (9) R<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>n</sub>- wherein n is the integer 0, 1 or 2; and R<sup>b</sup> is (a) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (b) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano; (c) phenyl; or (d) benzyl; (10) -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; (11) R<sup>e</sup>C(O)- wherein R<sup>e</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy; or (12) -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; and (13) -N(R<sup>c</sup>)C(O)R<sup>d</sup> wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined; and their salts.

3. An herbicidal composition comprising an herbicidally active 2-(pyridinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione or a salt thereof and an inert carrier therefor.

4. The herbicidal composition of Claim 3 wherein the 2-(pyridinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione is a compound of the formula



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkylene;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together are oxo;

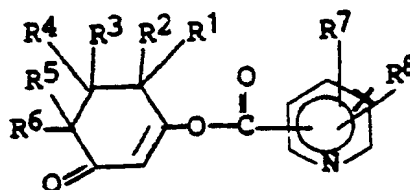
R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen; (3)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; (4)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  haloalkyl; (9)  $R^bSO_n$ - wherein  $n$  is the integer 0, 1 or 2; and  $R^b$  is (a)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; (b)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano; (c) phenyl; or (d) benzyl; (10)  $-NR^cR^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  independently are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; (11)  $R^eC(O)-$  wherein  $R^e$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy; or (12)  $-SO_2NR^cR^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  are as defined; and (13)  $-N(R^c)C(O)R^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  are as defined; and their salts.

5. The method of controlling undesirable vegetation comprising applying to the area where control is desired, an herbicidal composition comprising an herbicidally active 2-(pyridinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione or its salt and an inert carrier therefor.

6. A compound of the structural formula



wherein  $X$  is  $=CH$  or  $=N-$ ;

$R^1$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;

$R^2$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; or

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  together are  $C_2$ - $C_5$  alkylene;

$R^3$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

$R^4$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; or

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  together are oxo;

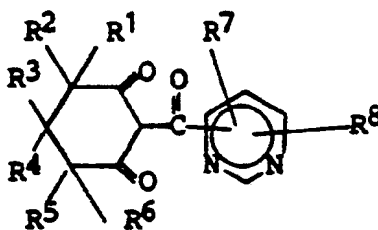
$R^5$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl;

$R^6$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; and

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen; (3)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; (4)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  haloalkyl; (9)  $R^bSO_n$ - wherein  $n$  is the integer 0, 1 or 2; and  $R^b$  is (a)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; (b)  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano; (c) phenyl; or (d) benzyl; (10)  $-NR^cR^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  independently are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; (11)  $R^eC(O)-$  wherein  $R^e$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy; or (12)  $-SO_2NR^cR^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  are as defined; and (13)  $-N(R^c)C(O)R^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  are as defined.

7. An herbicidal composition comprising an herbicidally active 2-(substituted pyrimidinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione or a salt thereof and an inert carrier therefor.

8. The herbicidal composition of Claim 7 wherein the 2-(substituted pyrimidinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione is a compound of the formula



wherein

$R^1$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;

$R^2$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; or

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  together are  $C_2$ - $C_5$  alkylene;

$R^3$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, with the proviso that  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  are not both phenyl or substituted phenyl;

$R^4$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; or

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  together are oxo;

$R^5$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl;



$R^6$  is hydrogen or  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl; and

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently are (1) hydrogen; (2) halogen; (3)  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl; (4)  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy; (5) trifluoromethoxy; (6) cyano; (7) nitro; (8)  $C_1-C_4$  haloalkyl; (9)  $R^bSO_n-$  wherein  $n$  is the integer 0, 1 or 2; and  $R^b$  is (a)  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl; (b)  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl substituted with halogen or cyano; (c) phenyl; or (d) benzyl; (10)  $-NR^cR^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  independently are hydrogen or  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl; (11)  $R^eC(O)-$  wherein  $R^e$  is  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl or  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy; or (12)  $-SO_2NR^cR^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  are as defined; and (13)  $-N(R^c)C(O)R^d$  wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  are as defined, and their salts.

9. The method of controlling undesirable vegetation comprising applying to the area where control is desired, an herbicidal composition comprising an herbicidally active 2-(pyrimidinecarbonyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione or its salt and an inert carrier therefor.

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Category   | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                    | Relevant to claim                              | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)  |
| Y  | US-A-4 209 532 (T.N. WHEELER)<br>* Claim 14 *<br>---   | 1,2  | C 07 D 213/50<br>C 07 D 213/61<br>C 07 D 213/79 |
| Y  | US-A-4 678 501 (D.T. MANNING)<br>* Column 2, line 46 - column 5, line 65; tables II,VII *<br>--- | 1,2  | C 07 D 239/26<br>C 07 D 239/28<br>C 07 D 239/38 |
| Y,D  | EP-A-0 135 191 (STAUFFER)<br>* Claim 8 *<br>---  | 1,2  | A 01 N 43/40<br>A 01 N 43/54                    |
| A  | EP-A-0 066 195 (BASF)<br>* Claim 7 *<br>-----  | 1,2  |   |
|  |  |  | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)          |
|  |  |  | C 07 D 213/00<br>C 07 D 239/00<br>A 01 N 43/00  |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims   |  |  |   |
| Place of search<br>THE HAGUE   |  | Date of completion of the search<br>25-05-1988 | Examiner<br>BRENNAN J.                          |
| <b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b><br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>-----<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |  |  |   |